

Appl. No. 10/604,854
Amdt. dated May 09, 2005
Reply to Office action of February 23, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Rejection of claims 1-7 and 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a):

Claims 1-7 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Adachi et al (6,561,663) for reasons of record.

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Response:

Claim 1 has been amended to overcome this rejection, and now contains limitations previously found in claims 5 and 7. Claim 1 recites that a plurality of fixing elements are positioned on the top and bottom frames for enabling connection of the bottom frame to the top frame. No new matter has been added through this amendment.

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On the other hand, Adachi does not disclose fixing elements between a top frame and a bottom frame. By comparing Adachi's Fig.13 and Fig.17, it can be seen that Adachi does not teach fixing elements between a top frame and a bottom frame, and does not teach a top frame that can be separated from or fixed to a bottom frame. Although a line is shown on the side of the structure shown in Fig.17, this line seems to be an auxiliary line or a decorative line, and does not represent a fixing means between a top and bottom frame. Therefore, Adachi does not anticipate the amended claim 1.

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Claims 5 and 7 have been cancelled as a result of the amendment, and claims 6 and 8 have been amended to depend on claim 1. Claims 2-4, 6, and 9-11 are dependent on claim 1, and should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed. Reconsideration of claims 1-4, 6, and 9-11 is respectfully requested.

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25 2. Rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adachi et al for reasons of record.

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Response:

Claim 8 is dependent on the currently amended claim 1, and should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed. Reconsideration of claim 8 is respectfully requested.

5 3. Interview summary:

A telephone interview was conducted between US Patent Agent Scott Margo (Reg. # 56,277) and Examiner Anabel Ton on April 26th, 2005. Claims 1, 4, and 7 were discussed.

10 Regarding claim 1, Mr. Margo asked the Examiner to clarify how the Adachi reference teaches a separate upper module and bottom frame. The Examiner said that she is allowed to interpret the term "upper module" very broadly to include any structure in the upper part of Adachi's lighting unit. The bottom frame is also taught by device 500 shown in Adachi's Fig.1. Therefore, the original claim 1 reads on the Adachi reference.

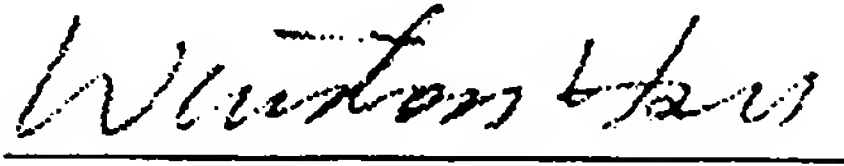
15 Regarding claim 4, Mr. Margo asked the Examiner to clarify the rejection of claim 4. The Examiner explained that the "buffer sheets" recited in claim 4 still do not sufficiently distinguish from Adachi because Adachi's light diffusion means 300 and light guiding plates 200 serve as "buffers" between the lamps 100.

20 Regarding claim 7, Mr. Margo pointed out that Adachi's Fig.13 and Fig.17 are not consistent in that Fig.13 does not show a line indicating a fixing means for fixing a bottom frame to a bottom frame. The line that Fig.17 does show can therefore not be interpreted to be a fixing means. Upon review, the Examiner agreed that the Adachi
25 reference does not anticipate claim 7.

In light of the above statements in favor of patentability, the applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Respectfully submitted,



Date: May 9, 2005

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- 10 Note: Please leave a message in my voice mail if you need to talk to me. The time in D.C. is 12 hours behind the Taiwan time, i.e. 9 AM in D.C. = 9 PM in Taiwan).